

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 RSR-01 SY-10 OPR-02 /145 W

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R 161502 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1543

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASST LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USUN NEW YORK 527

S E C R E T TUNIS 2102

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, TS, US

SUBJECT: CHARGES OF U. S. COMPLICITY IN ISRAELI RAID
IN LEBANON AND INCITATION AGAINST AMERICANS

REF' S: (A) TUNIS 2053 (B) STATE 070170 (C) STATE 070173

1. ON APRIL 16 I CALLED ON ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER MESTIRI
TO CONVEY DEMARCHE INDICATED BY REFTELS. I SAID U. S.
GOVERNMENT DEPLORES INNOCENT LOSS OF LIFE RESULTING FROM
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BEIRUT RAID JUST AS IT DEPLORES ALL TERRORIST ATTACKS, INCLUDING THOSE BY PALESTINIANS. AS SECRETARY TOLD AMBASSADOR KABBANI, I SAID THAT USG CONDEMNS TERRORISM FROM EVERY QUARTER.

2. I WENT ON TO SAY THAT WE ARE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT FALSE ACCUSATIONS ALLEGING USG COMPLICITY IN ISRAELI TERRORIST ATTACK AND URGING RETALIATORY MEASURES AGAINST AMERICANS. WE CONSIDER THAT SUCH INCITATIONS TO MURDER OR TO ATTACK AMERICAN CITIZENS AND PROPERTY ARE PARTICULARLY DANGEROUS AND IRRESPONSIBLE, AND WE CONSIDER THEM OUTRAGEOUS. I REFERRED TO SECRETARY ROGERS' MEETING WITH CHIEFS OF ARAB DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN WASHINGTON DENOUNCING ACCUSATIONS AS TOTALLY FALSE.

3. WHILE THANKING TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT FOR CONSTRUCTIVE WAY IN WHICH PRESS AND RADIO HAVE RESPONDED TO THESE ACCUSATIONS AND INCITATIONS, I EXPRESSED HOPE THAT GOT COULD USE ITS INFLUENCE IN ARAB WORLD TO COUNTER AND LIMIT THEIR EFFECTS.

4. MESTIRI EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT USG DEPLORING TERRORISM FROM ISRAELI SIDE, AS WELL AS TERRORISM BY PALESTINIANS. HE EXPRESSED VIEW THAT ISRAELI ATTACK INTO LEBANON PARTICULARLY SERIOUS SINCE IT UNDERTAKEN BY A GOVERNMENT, AND NOT BY A BAND OF DESPERADOS. HE REITERATED TUNISIAN POSITION OF OPPOSING TERRORISM OF ALL KINDS -- EXCEPT "LEGITIMATE" RESISTANCE ACTIVITY INSIDE ISRAEL. HE SAID TUNISIA SEEKS TO MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH MORE MODERATE FEDAYEEN, AND NOTED THAT ISRAELIS HAD NOT RPT NOT KILLED FEDAYEEN EXTREMISTS, LIKE HABASH AND HAWATNI, BUT THREE CONSIDERED RELATIVELY MODERATE. I TOOK EXCEPTION, NOTING THAT ABU YOUSSEF FOR ONE CLEARLY IMPLICATED IN PREVIOUS BSO OPERATIONS.

5. MESTIRI SAID THAT TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT STRONGLY DISAPPROVES OF CHARGES OF USG COMPLICITY IN ISRAELI ATTACK AND CONDEMNS INCITATIONS AGAINST AMERICAN CITIZENS. TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT KNOWS THAT USG NOT RPT NOT INVOLVED IN ISRAELI OPERATION, AND IT CONSIDERS ALLEGATIONS OF USG COMPLICITY, AS WELL AS INCITATION FOR ACTION AGAINST AMERICANS, AS TOTALLY IRRESPONSIBLE. GOT WILL INDEED DO WHAT IT CAN TO HELP LIMIT EFFECT OF THESE FALSE ACCUSATIONS IN THE AREA.

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6. MESTIRI EXPRESSED IMPORTANCE GOT ATTACHES TO ITS

RELATIONSHIP WITH U. S. AND SAID THAT TUNISIA
MAKES NO SECRET OF THIS ATTACHMENT. IT DOES NOT HESITATE
TO CONVEY THIS TO PALESTINIANS, JUST AS IT TELLS US OF ITS
SYMPATHIES FOR PALESTINIAN MOVEMENT.
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*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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TAGS: PINS, TS, US
To: AF
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BEIRUT
JERUSALEM
JIDDA

KHARTOUM
KUWAIT
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